

Mizue Miyagi

Professor Wakefield, M.Ed.

EDU-114

May 2023

Course Reflection

In this discussion, we'll share some thoughts about what we've read and learned in this course. Think about all of the chapters as you review them. We have been reading about the development of the child from conception through toddlerhood. We have also been talking about how adult/parents/teachers and even society and culture affect the child during those periods of development. Have you had any new thoughts about your roles as educators (parents/teachers)? What has what we've learned taught you about the importance of your role to the lives of young children? Can you have an impact on the children in your care? Why is that important?

1. Have you had any new thoughts about your roles as educators (parents/teachers)?

A new skill that I learned is how to utilize each developmental theory in my classroom. Each age has certain milestones (even though each child is different), so if I am lost in what to teach next, I can always go back to the content that I learned in this class. The knowledge of theories gave me confidence.

2. What has what we've learned taught you about the importance of your role in the lives of young children?

The more I learn, the more I realize that early childhood education is not just about nurturing an individual child's well-being, but it is also about cultivating a foundation that supports a better society as a whole. Every lesson from this course has reinforced the idea that our roles as educators, whether as parents or teachers, is far beyond the classroom or home.

3. Can you have an impact on the children in your care?

Yes, I'm confident that I can have a positive impact on the children in my care. By comparing my own childhood experiences with what I have learned in this class, I can now clearly plan activities that support children's cognitive development, self-esteem, resilience, social-emotional skills, and other important areas of growth.

4. Why is that important?

Early childhood education turned out to be even more influential than I expected when I first began studying this field. Experiences in early childhood have a profound and lasting impact, shaping our development well into adulthood—and even throughout our entire lives. This lifelong influence highlights the critical importance of high-quality early education. It not only affects children's immediate success but also their long-term well-being and life path. What I found most eye-opening is that research shows early childhood education influences not just academic outcomes, but also physical health and social relationships. As a teacher, this motivates me to create meaningful, supportive experiences that can positively shape each child's future.

In summary, I have learned that the importance of early childhood education cannot be overstated. It is about laying the foundations for fulfilling lives. As an educator, I remind myself that I am the one responsible for nurturing children for a healthier life.